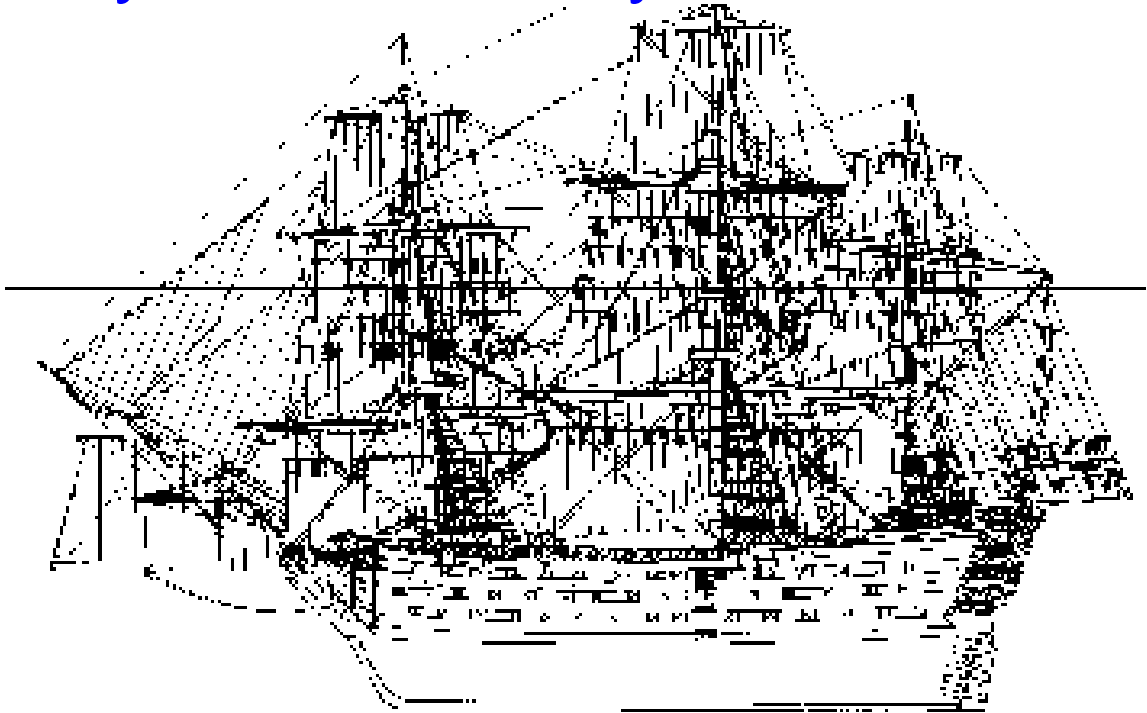


“Ahoy,” HMS Victory!



The HMS Victory. The warship was 226 feet long with its tallest mast 205 feet above the water line. Under full sail, she carried 36 sails and 5 miles of standard rigging. She had 102 guns and carried 35 tons of powder and 120 tons of shot. She carried a crew of about 850 officers and men.

The Naval Training Center in San Diego recently came into possession of a popular, yet unusual piece of property: a 25-ft scale model of the famous English vessel, the HMS Victory.

The Training Center turned it over to the DRMO and just as personnel there were scratching their heads for disposal ideas, the answer presented itself when the Historic Dockyard Trust, Chatham; in Kent, England expressed a strong interest.

The Trust, a nonprofit charity set up under English law, now occupies the site of the former Royal Navy Base and Dockyard, and is, in effect, a living museum, reenacting the story of the Royal Navy as it builds and maintains ships there.

The model couldn't be a more perfect addition to Chatham's historical exhibition, since the original Victory (now residing as a permanent fixture at Portsmouth) came to life in its own dockyards there. Built during the mid-1700s, it was by far the most famous ship ever built at Chatham.

Through consultation between the DRMS Foreign Military Sales (FMS) program manager and the United Kingdom's Department of Defense representatives, it was determined that funding could be coordinated through the Ministry of the Defense (Navy) allowing the Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust to obtain the model as an FMS transaction (acquisition value: \$5,600).

If all goes well, Chatham Trust plans to exhibit the treasure in the midst of its other wooden warships, in the very same building in which Victory's lines were "laid down" some 237 years ago.

by David Fox and Mary Smith, DRMS-SOR